

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of **PCT/FR01/02062**
Andre TARDY, et al. Attorney Docket No. Q68616
Appln. No.: Not Assigned Group Art Unit: Not Assigned
Confirmation No.: Not Assigned Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: AN OPTICAL FIBER PUMPED THROUGH THE CLADDING AND A METHOD OF
FABRICATING IT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

4. (Amended)An optical fiber according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a low-index polymer coating (20) around its second cladding and in that the interface between the second cladding and said coating has a substantially polygonal or multilobed cross section.

7. (Amended)A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the central optical preform (11) is, after drawing, an optical fiber pumped through the cladding consisting of a core having an index n_1 , a first cylindrical cladding of circular section surrounding the core and

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having an index n_2 lower than n_1 , and a second cylindrical cladding of circular section surrounding the first cladding and having an index n_3 .

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the central optical preform and the rods having an index n_3 are placed in a sleeve (5, 16) within which the atmosphere is controlled for drawing by establishing a vacuum or a partial pressure of neutral gases such as helium or reagents such as C_2F_6 .

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the interstices between the rods (15) having an index n_3 are filled and the atmosphere in the volume delimited by the rods is controlled for drawing by establishing a vacuum or a partial pressure of neutral gases such as helium or reagents such as C_2F_6 .

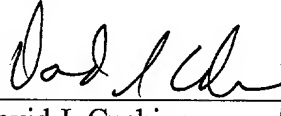
11. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the second cladding is enveloped in a low-index polymer coating (20).

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REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. (Amended) An optical fiber according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes a low-index polymer coating (20) around its second cladding and in that the interface between the second cladding and said coating has a substantially polygonal or multilobed cross section.

7. (Amended) A method according to ~~either claim 5 or claim 6~~ claim 5, characterized in that the central optical preform (11) is, after drawing, an optical fiber pumped through the cladding consisting of a core having an index n_1 , a first cylindrical cladding of circular section surrounding the core and having an index n_2 lower than n_1 , and a second cylindrical cladding of circular section surrounding the first cladding and having an index n_3 .

8. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, characterized in that the central optical preform and the rods having an index n_3 are placed in a sleeve (5, 16) within which the atmosphere is controlled for drawing by establishing a vacuum or a partial pressure of neutral gases such as helium or reagents such as C_2F_6 .

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10. (Amended)A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~claim 5, characterized in that the interstices between the rods (15) having an index n_3 are filled and the atmosphere in the volume delimited by the rods is controlled for drawing by establishing a vacuum or a partial pressure of neutral gases such as helium or reagents such as C_2F_6 .

11. (Amended)A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 10~~claim 5, characterized in that the second cladding is enveloped in a low-index polymer coating (20).